

Senate Joint Resolution No. 18

RESOLUTION CHAPTER 98

Senate Joint Resolution No. 18—Relative to veterans' cemeteries.

[Filed with Secretary of State August 15, 2006.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SJR 18, Denham. Veterans' cemetery: Fort Ord.

This measure would memorialize the President and Congress of the United States to approve construction of a state veterans' cemetery at Fort Ord in Monterey County when the state applies to the federal State Cemetery Grants Program.

WHEREAS, Our liberties are preserved by those willing to make the ultimate sacrifice; and

WHEREAS, Our debt to those who serve can never truly be measured or repaid and therefore it is important to show our gratitude in the humble, thankful, and gracious spirit in which it is offered; and

WHEREAS, The actions we take today will determine the fate of our liberties tomorrow, or, as George Washington said, "The willingness with which our young people are likely to serve in any war, no matter how justified, shall be directly proportional as to how they perceive veterans of earlier wars were treated and appreciated by their nation"; and

WHEREAS, One of the greatest expressions of unending gratitude to our veterans is recognition in perpetuity by being laid to rest in a veterans' cemetery; and

WHEREAS, There are few locations in the United States with the grandeur of the California coastline at Monterey; and

WHEREAS, Fort Ord in Monterey County, California, also shares a long and honorable history with veterans of the United States of America; and

WHEREAS, Local citizens and governments continue to recognize their connection with veterans and have donated land for the purpose of honoring America's veterans; and

WHEREAS, The State of California is working to establish an endowment fund; and

WHEREAS, The proposed endowment fund will consist of monetary and in-kind donations from public and private entities, as well as fees and transfers from the General Fund to pay the costs of maintaining the veterans' cemetery at Fort Ord; and

WHEREAS, It is recognized by the State of California that the Fort Ord location in Monterey County contains all tangible and intangible requirements for the making of a national shrine, including a history of

defending the United States, long service with veterans, scenic views, and an honored place in the heart of the community, the state, and the nation, even if not in the heart of the United States Department of Veterans Affairs; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and the Assembly of the State of California, jointly, That the Legislature of the State of California memorializes the President and Congress of the United States to approve construction of a state veterans' cemetery at Fort Ord in Monterey County, California, when the state applies to the United States Department of Veterans Affairs State Cemetery Grants Program in order to fund 100 percent of the cost of constructing and establishing a state veterans' cemetery at Ford Ord; and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the President of the United States, to all Members of the Congress of the United States, to the United States Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and the Under Secretary for Memorial Affairs with the United States Department of Veterans Affairs.